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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

On August 2, 2001

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By Julie Taylor Clough



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

MASAKAZU HISHINUMA, et al.

Application No.: 09/319,688

Filed: June 9, 1999

For: FUEL ELECTRODE OF SOLID
OXIDE FUEL CELL AND PROCESS
FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE
SAME

Examiner: B. Talbot

Art Unit: 1762

AMENDMENT

PATENT
084776-000000US
SO-1418TUS(PCT)

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TC 1700

#17/B
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants request a two-month extension of time from June 5, 2001 to August 5, 2001 and authorize the Commissioner to charge the fee therefor to our deposit account in accordance with the attached Fee Transmittal sheet.

In response to the Office Action mailed March 5, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows. Marked-up versions of the changes to the claims are attached to this Amendment.

Affirmation of Election under 35 U.S.C. §121:

A provisional election was made, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group II (i.e., claims 12-27) on October 19, 2000. Applicants hereby affirm their provisional election, with traverse, of claims 12-27. Applicants contend, however, that a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and §372 is unwarranted. Specifically, Applicants submit that the subject matters of the